IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claim 1 and add new claim 17, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for activating and/or calcining olefin polymerization catalysts which contain transition materials ~~such as chromium or titanium~~ as an active component or catalyst supports which contain oxidic compounds as a support material, said method comprising the steps of

(a) introducing and distributing gas in the lower section of a reactor containing a layer of catalyst or catalyst support,

(b) forming a fluidized bed in the reactor,

(c) treating the catalyst or catalyst carrier particles in the fluidized bed wherein the treatment of the catalyst or catalyst support is selected from the group consisting of an activation treatment, a calcination treatment and both an activation treatment and a calcination treatment, and

(d) discharging the reactor such that said reactor is substantially residue-free,

wherein said reactor has a bottom which tapers downwards.

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2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in addition relatively fine particles are removed and/or relatively large particles are retained by means of a separator.

3. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said separator comprises at least one cyclone.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one additional member selected from the group consisting of liquids, solids and gases is introduced into the fluidized bed.

Claims 6-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said reactor comprises

i) a reactor jacket comprising a reactor bottom which tapers downwards,

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ii) a pipe for introducing gas into the reactor located beneath the reactor bottom and connected to a gas inlet pipe for gas introduction,

iii) a device for discharging the reactor located beneath the reactor bottom, and

iv) a separator,

such that an angle β between said gas inlet pipe and the vertical is from 20 to 70°.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein a cone angle α measured between the reactor jacket surfaces and said conical reactor base is from 20 to 120°.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said reactor has no gas distribution plate.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said transition material comprises chromium or titanium.

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